

## **Acknowledgement**

### **Bryan Martin :**

13 years old

His mother committed child abuse , and Martin got taken away from his home and put into this foster home

Put in foster home when he was 8 years old

### **Cathryn Garcia :**

13 years old

Parents had her when they were 15 , put her up for adoption but nobody adopted her , has been to several foster homes , but has recently been settled down to one , the worst one she claims she's ever been to .

Put in foster home when she was 2 years old

### **Brooklyn Martinez :**

15 years old

Her and her brother got found abandoned by her parents in New York , found in an alley .

Put in foster home when she was 6 years old

### **Greg Martinez :**

10 years old

Found with his sister abandoned in an alley way in New York

In foster home when he was 1 year old

### **Bryan Martin**

It was exactly 2 years ago , December 25 , 2011 , the night that changed our lives , forever . We finally got what we wanted , what we deserved ! After all these years of torture ! Let me explain :

There are about 50 kids living in this one house , the parents are horrible . The mom thinks that she is nice just because she's giving these kids a home , more like imprisoning them into being her slave , and doing her dirty work for her .

That's not the only reason that I hate that house , the kids here are like animals ! I swear , it's like a race just getting to the bathroom in the morning , and let's not mention the kitchen . Mom makes small portions of this slop that you would feed dogs from the leftovers at dinner .

My room , is the worst . They shove about 10 kids in one room , the size of the bathroom stall at the mall . Not to mention , my roommates , the snoring and the sleep talking , I swear my mother has something against me , she gives me the worst of everything , the worst roommates , worst food , not really that there is a "good kind" but she makes sure that I always get the worst of them all .

We had school today . Our school that we go to , isn't a public school , but we don't pay to go . Our school is for the people in the foster home who ' cant be taught ' , more like the school with horrible foster parents , but it's not that bad . Many kids don't like going to school but I actually kind of liked school . So what , we get a little homework , and the teachers don't really understand us , but I'd really rather these people as my teacher than my mom ! But she's too lazy to teach anyways , i mean she could teach us , if she have really wanted , but she says that she's too busy for teaching and that we need to go to school with professionals ; won't argue with that . But I have to say , most of them , i wouldn't be surprised if they didn't even get a degree in teaching , i think that they were more like high school drop outs that need some community hours instead . Some teachers aren't all bad though , my favorite teacher is my math teacher , his name is George , I know this because he's the one who put us in the foster home , he has like five other jobs . Besides fostering kids , and teaching , he does so many other things like Babysitting , he babysits kids all the time . Like one time he babysat us , and when he did , we had a lot of fun , but we didn't finish any of the chores mom told us to do , so she said that she thought that George was a ' bad influence ' on us , so from that day she said that she would never leave us alone with a baby sitter ever again ! So now she just

sits at home , like a lump on the couch , doing nothing but ordering us around . George also does other activities and jobs to keep him busy not because he needs money , he's rich ! but just because he loves working , he runs a day care . George really loves kids . He always says that he wants to make a difference in this world , and change kids . He has two kids , a dog , and a wife . His kids are twins , one boy and one girl named Amber and Tyler . His dog , Lucky , very playful and loving , and his wife who's so nice and sweet . I wish my family was like that , I bet they have a good Christmas waking up on a Sunday morning , having breakfast together , then going to church driving in our mini van singing Christmas songs together . Then after church we'll have a big Christmas party and celebration with our whole family . Then all get all the presents and I would be happy with my gifts and be grateful that I even got those gifts ! And i would say "thank you for coming" after the party . Then , finishing off the day with getting tucked into my big comfy bed while my parents reading me a bed time story and waiting for me to fall asleep and then when they think I'm asleep they'll kiss my forehead goodnight . "Buzz" The dryer dinged .

" Bryan ! What was that !? Quick , Hurry Up and get done with the laundry now !" Mom yelled across from the living room . I quickly snapped out of my day dream and got done folding the laundry .

" It's almost ready !" I yelled back

" About time !"

### **Cathryn Garcia**

Me and George have this thing , we have this connection , he gets me , and why I don't want to be with this foster home anymore but George says that he's trying to find a new family for all of us , one that would love us , and give us real food ! But i know for a fact that that's not happening any time soon , there hasn't been an opening since 2 years ago at the Smith's house . I wish I was there , that's my dream! I heard that they are very loving . They even celebrate Christmas together , and they get presents too , from Santa and everything ! I wish I could have a real Christmas one year , that's all i really ever wanted , was the feeling of not being able to sleep because I want to hear Santa's bells ringing on my rooftop , and waking up in the morning with beautifully wrapped gifts under the Christmas tree . And going to see Santa at the mall with my family and then after we'll go home and play in the snow together , making snow men and snow angels together . I've heard it's really a lot of fun , and it would be even better doing it all with my family ! I would really love to have a real family . Somebody who loved me and cared for me , somebody who actually wants me , and would help me with my homework when I needed them to . That's all i really ever wanted . That could be the best Christmas gift ever !

When I went to get the mail , there was a cute little magazine , it was Christmas , it had Christmas cookies that looked really yummy , and they had Christmas Trees , I didn't know that there were so many types . There are real trees , and fake trees , and silver trees and a white tree . My favorite was the silver and white tree . The white tree reminded me of snow . I've never seen snow before . I've always wanted to play in snow . All I want for Christmas is snow , that I can play in , not have to watch it slowly come down , haunting me , while I'm inside because I'm not allowed to play . Seeing families and friends outside together , doing everything I've always wanted to do . They don't know how lucky they really are because they can go play in the snow , and I hate it when kids take those things for granted , when that's my only wish .

### **Greg Martinez**

I guess it's okay here . The kids are all so nice . I don't really hangout with anyone my age , I only hangout with my sisters friends Cathryn , Bryan , and her . It's just something about the people my age seem to be so dumb and they are all like animals ! Cathryn is really nice to me , she always tells me really funny stories , and we play games together that I think are really fun . Bryan is also really nice , he's like my big brother , and he teaches me about sports and he's like the big brother that I always wanted ! He cares about me and we play together . Sometimes we go outside and play

football with this football that we found , or baseball with a crumpled up paper and a broom . Our foster mom hates when we use the broom , she says that we're going to break it one of these days , and one time we did . I remember that we had to glue it back together , but we still played more anyways .

Brooklyn is also really loving . I'm actually glad that she is here with me , to guide me so I'm not alone . I have no idea what I would ever do without my big sister by my side . I love her so much . Sometimes we get into fights because she likes to boss me around , but in the end we know it's just because she wants to protect me and she really does care about me .

I don't really know why I'm here . Did I do something wrong ? What did I ever do to be punished like this , and why did they take me away from my mom and daddy ? I really love them so much ! Brooklyn always tells me that normal kids aren't like this , that they have parents that care and that I should be mad at Mommy and Daddy , but I'm not . And I will never be . I will always love mommy and daddy no matter what ! Even if they never come back ever again ! But I know that they will ! Someday , I just know it . I bet that they are looking for us right now , searching every piece of land for their kids ! I could never hate mommy or daddy ever , in a day of my life .

I wrote them a letter once . It said

*Dear Mommy and Daddy ,*

*I just wanted to say , that I know you're looking for me and Brooklyn . If you ever find this note then you can find me in a foster home , 26 Eight Street , Pennsylvania . I'm okay , and Brooklyn's doing good also . We are trapped with this horrible foster mom . This lady beats us with sticks and makes us take out her trash and clean up after her . Were like slaves to her , and when we don't do her chores , she locks us in the dungeon and makes us sleep on the cold , hard floor . And the food that we eat there is yucky ! It tastes like dog food , but I'm pretty sure even dogs eat better than us ! I think that the only reason our foster mother is doing this is for the money , which she spends about 10 percent on us , and the other 90 percent on herself . I just wanted to tell you that I know that you're out there looking for us and You can find us !*

*Love ,*

*Your son Greg*

After I wrote this letter I lost it after awhile so I never really know where it went and I will never know if they ever found it . Probably not . But either way , a part of m knew that they aren't looking for us , but another part of me still has hope , and I always will have hope no matter what .

### **Bryan Martin**

I got so excited today , I saw Christmas carolers outside of my house today , I thought that they were going to come to our house to spread the joy of Christmas through song , but that didn't happen . They were walking by , and then our dumb foster mother told them not to come . I really don't like her , she ruins everything for us . She told us that she had a headache so she didn't need annoying loud singing in her ear . I've always wanted loud singing in my ear , well not like that . But , I've never heard anybody sing Christmas Carols before . I really love music , although I haven't heard a lot , only when I hear some of the neighbor's music when it gets to loud , until mom calls the cops and shuts them down . But I think that music , can be more powerful then a book , or a poem . It's a creative way of expressing your feeling that gives entertainment and is very catchy . All I want for Christmas is to sit and sing Christmas Carols with my friends and family .

### **Brooklyn Martinez**

I really want a real Christmas , I want a Christmas tree . I want to walk downstairs every morning and see this beautiful lit up Christmas tree . One with ornaments and beautiful , colorful lights that light up the whole night ! I know that Christmas will never happen the way it's supposed to be , and the way that we want it . Until one day . . .

We were stuck home alone and we were scared . Mother decided to take everyone out to go somewhere except for me , Greg , Bryan , and Cathryn we had to stay home and finish doing our chores . But instead of doing them , we were sitting playing a game of go fish with some cards that I found , that kept our minds off the noises that we thought we heard that were coming from downstairs that mother always told us about the monsters downstairs to keep us from going down there . There was a loud banging noise on the door .

" Who is that !? Greg asked me , frantically cowering behind Cathryn.

" I don't know ? We don't usually get visitors . " I quickly walked up to the door while Bryan was behind me with a baseball bat ,we all laughed .

" Just in case ." he said . I looked through the peep whole. There was a man and a women , they looked oddly familiar , maybe they are aunts or uncle's that i forgot about , or maybe one of mom's many friends that came here before . I barley opened the door as they came barging in . I didn't recognize them , they looked more familiar through the peep whole , they asked for my mother .

" She's out ."

"Out where ?" They asked .

" I don't know . Out ."

" Pathetic , there mother leaves home these poor little kids by themselves ." She said under her breath . As we were waiting , mother drove in the drive way , she got out of the car puzzled , and the people went over to her .

"Maybe they're from the state , maybe they're going to give us Christmas , and get us out of here!" Bryan said excited .

" Shhh ." I told them , as I was trying to see what they were talking about , but I couldn't hear a thing . The only thing I heard was excuse me ma'am , and then she lowered her voice . I couldn't guess what this could be about .

"You have no proof !" She yelled at the top of her lungs .

"Ma'am , we got an anonymous letter to us , and we have witnesses !" That's where my letter went ? Greg said . But we all ignored his comment .

### **Cathryn Garcia**

After everything calmed down , they took mom away in a police car . The people told us that they took away our mother because of some standards but she told us no more . We couldn't figure it out either , but by the way that it looked , she was going to the slammer .

" What's going to happen to us ?" Greg asked . She told us that we are going to have to stay with another foster family , I actually wasn't complaining . I was glad that we didn't have to stay there anymore . When I was talking to Greg about how he felt about this , he said that he wrote a letter he admitted that it was a little over exaggerating and they must got a hold of it somehow but I guess whatever he said wrote was good because it got us into a different foster home .

It was actually kind of nice , the parents seemed so much better and they fed us real food that was good , but I guess after a few years old slop , I was glad to just get a cheese burger . The good thing is that it wasn't as crowded , and we got our own rooms . It was just me , Brooklyn , Bryan , and Greg at the home , and then the two kids who lived there because they were our foster parent's children who are twins . Their names are Amber and Tyler . They also have a dog , his name is lucky . He's really playful and nice . Then there's the mother , her name is Maria but she told us to call her mom . Our dad , he's amazing , and he loves kids , we call him George .

### **Brooklyn Martin**

What a Christmas present . This is the best thing I could have asked for . I walked into the door of George's house and I was amazed ! It looked big on the outside , but it was huge on the inside , and it was already decorated . It had lights and holly everywhere , it was so pretty . He told us to walk around a little and make our selves at home . I explored the kitchen , and a little of the dinning area , but what really caught my eyes was the living room . Well actually it was inside of the living room . It was beautiful , something I've never seen in my life , it was so perfect . It was a Christmas tree . It was green , it was beautifully ornamented . I stood there for about 5 minutes then I decided to move because I didn't want my new family to think I'm a freak , I just moved along . I walked up the stairs leading to where all of our rooms are . I realized that there were about 10 big rooms , they all had bathrooms in it so we won't have to fight for it in the morning , there were also maids . I'm starting to get the feeling that George is filthy rich ! Which as I've learned , he is .

We got to pick our rooms and then it was time for bed . Tonight was Christmas Eve and although I know that none of the presents under the tree will be mine , this was the best present I could ever ask for . And from that night on , I went to sleep , and woke up with a big heart and a smile on my face !